European Commission

TOWARDS AN EU FREE FROM ANTISEMITISM

EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life

5 October 2021

"Because antisemitism strikes at the heart of our values: humanity, religious freedom, equality. Antisemitism is a poison for our society. It is up to all of us to fight it. To prevent it. And to eradicate it."

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Antisemitism is a threat not only to Jewish communities and to Jewish life, but also to an open and diverse society, to democracy and the European way of life. With this new strategy, a first of its kind, the Commission proposes a series of actions to prevent and combat antisemitism, protect and foster Jewish life and support education, research and Holocaust remembrance.

Nine out of ten
European Jews consider that antisemitism has increased in their countries. Every second European considers antisemitism as a problem

85% of European Jews consider antisemitism to be a serious problem

Justice and Consumers

I. Preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism

Contemporary antisemitism is found across the whole spectrum of society and can take many forms. Antisemitic speech and behaviour can be open or veiled, conscious or unconscious. The Commission will:

- support Member States' efforts to **design and implement national strategies** to combat antisemitism and mobilise EU funds,
- tackle antisemitism online by supporting the **establishment of a Europe-wide network of trusted flaggers** and Jewish organisations for the removal of illegal online hate speech and support independent organisations to develop **counter-narratives**,
- organise **a Hackathon** to develop new innovative ways to address antisemitism in the online and digital environment,
- cooperate with industry and IT companies to **prevent the illegal display and sale of Nazi-related symbols, memorabilia and literature** online.

44% of young European Jews have experienced antisemitic harassment

II. Protecting and fostering Jewish life in the EU

To ensure that Jews feel safe and can participate fully in European life, the Commission will:

- increase **EU funding for projects** aiming to better protect public spaces and **places of worship**, making EUR 24 million available in 2022,
- take action on **protecting Jewish cemeteries of Europe**, raise awareness of **Jewish-owned cultural assets** plundered by the Nazis, and safeguard **Jewish cultural heritage**,
- raise awareness and **increase knowledge about Jewish life**,
- invite cities to address the history of their minorities, including Jewish community history, when applying for the title of **European Capital of Culture**,
- promote visits of young people travelling around Europe to Jewish heritage sites in the context of **DiscoverEU**,
- foster links between the Jewish tradition of planting trees on the holiday of **TuBishvat**, including by school children, and the EU pledge to plant 3 billion additional trees under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, thereby raising mutual awareness and visibility.

71% of European Jews avoid carrying or displaying items that could identify them as Jewish at least occasionally

III. Education, research and Holocaust remembrance

To shape Europe's future, people need to understand its past. The Commission pledges to:

- support the **creation of a network of sites "where the Holocaust happened"** in cooperation with local communities,
- ensure **support for education and research** on antisemitism, the Holocaust and Jewish life,
- foster the creation of a **European research hub on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life and culture**,
- set up a network of **Young European Ambassadors to promote Holocaust remembrance**,
- **combat Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation**, including online.

One-third (34 %)
of European Jews avoid visiting Jewish events or sites at least occasionally because they would not feel safe there or on the way there

Leading the global fight against antisemitism

Founded on a strong commitment to promote and protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law worldwide, the EU will:

- address **religious and ethnic discrimination, including antisemitism, in political and human rights dialogues**,
- ensure that **EU external funds may not be misallocated** to activities that incite hatred and violence, including against Jewish people,
- ensure that activities to combat antisemitism can be supported through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument **(NDICI) 'Global Europe'**,
- support **safeguarding Jewish cultural heritage** and **commemorating the Holocaust**.

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